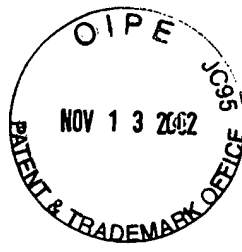


Serial No.: 10/010,158
Practitioner Docket No. 019502.0007US1



MARKED UP VERSION OF THE CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A bag slitting apparatus for opening a sealed bag along an edge of said bag, the apparatus comprising a first arm having a first outer surface and a first inner surface, a second arm having a second outer surface and a second inner surface, wherein said first and second arms are [biased] resiliently connected and in tensioned movable opposed relationship to each other such that the first and second inner surfaces are movably positionable against each other and wherein one of said inner surfaces is a bladed inner surface having projecting therefrom a bag cutting blade with a distal blade tip and wherein the other of said inner surfaces has a transverse laterally-open concave groove there across for receiving therein the blade tip and a continuously moving bag edge, and additionally where the first and second outer surfaces are concavely contoured for simultaneous opposing receipt of a finger and thumb of a user.
2. A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said apparatus is fabricated as a single piece of material.
3. A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the single piece of material is rigid plastic.
4. A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said apparatus except for the bag cutting blade is fabricated as a single piece of material.
5. A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the bag cutting blade is metal.
6. A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the blade tip receiver is a surface-disposed groove in alignment with the blade tip.

RECEIVED

NOV 15 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Serial No.: 10/010,158
Practitioner Docket No. 019502.0007US1

CLEAN VERSION OF THE CURRENT CLAIMS

1. A bag slitting apparatus for opening a sealed bag along an edge of said bag, the apparatus comprising a first arm having a first outer surface and a first inner surface, a second arm having a second outer surface and a second inner surface, wherein said first and second arms are resiliently connected and in tensioned movable opposed relationship to each other such that the first and second inner surfaces are movably positionable against each other and wherein one of said inner surfaces is a bladed inner surface having projecting therefrom a bag cutting blade with a distal blade tip and wherein the other of said inner surfaces has a transverse laterally-open concave groove there across for receiving therein the blade tip and a continuously moving bag edge, and additionally where the first and second outer surfaces are concavely contoured for simultaneous opposing receipt of a finger and thumb of a user.
2. A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said apparatus is fabricated as a single piece of material.
3. A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the single piece of material is rigid plastic.
4. A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said apparatus except for the bag cutting blade is fabricated as a single piece of material.
5. A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the bag cutting blade is metal.
6. A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the blade tip receiver is a surface-disposed groove in alignment with the blade tip.

Serial No.: 10/010,158

Practitioner Docker No. 019502.0007US1

B1

second arms are [biased] resiliently connected and in tensioned movable opposed relationship to each other such that the first and second inner surfaces are movably positionable against each other and wherein one of said inner surfaces is a bladed inner surface having projecting therefrom a bag cutting blade with a distal blade tip and wherein the other of said inner surfaces has a transverse laterally-open concave groove there across for receiving therein the blade tip and a continuously moving bag edge, and additionally where the first and second outer surfaces are concavely contoured for simultaneous opposing receipt of a finger and thumb of a user.

2. *A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said apparatus is fabricated as a single piece of material.*
3. *A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the single piece of material is rigid plastic.*
4. *A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said apparatus except for the bag cutting blade is fabricated as a single piece of material.*
5. *A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the bag cutting blade is metal.*
6. *A bag slitting apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the blade tip receiver is a surface-disposed groove in alignment with the blade tip.*